



## Strategies to identify future shortages due to interruptions in the health care procurement supply chain and their impact on health services: A method from the English National Health Service

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### Abstract:

**Objectives:** The uninterrupted supply of essential items for patient care is crucial for organizations that deliver health care. Many products central to health care are derived from natural resources such as oil and cotton, supplies of which are vulnerable to climate change and increasing global demand. The purpose of this study was to identify which items would have the greatest effect on service delivery and patient outcomes should they no longer be available. **Methods:** Using a consensus development approach, all items bought by one hospital, over one year, were subjected to a filtering process. Criteria were developed to identify at-risk products and assess them against specific risks and opportunities. Seventy-two items were identified for assessment against a range of potential impacts on service delivery and patient outcomes, from no impact to significant impact. Clinical and non-clinical participants rated the items. **Results:** In the category of significant impact, consensus was achieved for 20 items out of 72. There were differences of opinion between clinical and non-clinical participants in terms of significant impact in relation to 18 items, suggesting that priority over purchasing decisions may create areas of conflict. Reducing reliance on critically scarce resources and reducing demand were seen as the most important criteria in developing sustainable procurement. **Conclusion:** The method was successful in identifying items vulnerable to supply chain interruption and should be repeated in other areas to test its ability to adapt to local priorities, and to assess how it functions in a variety of public and private settings.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1355819613502172>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

**European Region/Country:** European Country

**Other European Country :** United Kingdom

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

**Medical Community Engagement:** ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

**Resilience:** ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

**Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content